



March 23, 2004



MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of **Teiji EKIDA, Harutaka YAGAME, Hiroshi IIDA, Kiyoshi YASUKAWA, Shigeo TSUCHIYA** and **Teruhiko Shigeo** entitled **"IL-6 RECEPTOR • IL-6 DIRECT FUSION PROTEIN"**
Assignee: **TOSOH CORPORATION**
Our Ref: **Q-80657**

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Continuation Application of pending prior Application No. 09/743,239 (Confirmation No.2873) filed January 5, 2001, of Teiji EKIDA, Harutaka YAGAME, Hiroshi IIDA, Kiyoshi YASUKAWA, Shigeo TSUCHIYA, and Teruhiko IDE entitled "IL-6 RECEPTOR • IL-6 DIRECT FUSION PROTEIN"; which is a 371 of PCT/JP99/03554, filed July 1, 1999.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims, Abstract, 13 sheets of drawings and a copy of the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney (as filed in the prior application).

Also, filed simultaneously herewith is a Preliminary Amendment, Information Disclosure Statement (accompanied by Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) - listing references cited by the Examiner and/or Applicants during prosecution of the prior application), and a Statement in Support of Submission (accompanied by the Sequence Listing).

Further, a Petition for Three-month Extension of Time, along with payment of the appropriate fee, is being filed concurrently herewith in Parent Application No. 09/743,239.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1646.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
JAPAN	Hei 10-190597	July 6, 1998
JAPAN	Hei 11-21788	January 29, 1999
JAPAN	Hei 11-123411	April 30, 1999

The priority documents were submitted during entry of National Stage for Parent Application No. 09/743,239.



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The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>16</u>	-	20	=	<u> </u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u> </u>	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>13</u>	-	3	=	<u>10</u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u>\$860.00</u>	
Base Fee										<u>\$770.00</u>

TOTAL FILING FEE

\$1630.00

A check for the statutory fee, in the amount of \$1,630.00, is attached.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Drew Hissong
Registration No. 44,765

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER